

FINAL-NO SIG

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Indiana	
COUNTY: Marion	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

099-295-71933

1. NAME

COMMON:
The Benton House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
312 South Downey Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Indianapolis

STATE: **Indiana** CODE: COUNTY: **Marion** CODE:

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure 	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	Community Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Irvington Historic Landmarks Foundation, Inc.

STREET AND NUMBER:
312 South Downey Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: **Indianapolis** STATE: **Indiana** CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Marion County Recorder's Office, Plat Book 4, page 18

STREET AND NUMBER:
Room 721, City-County Building

CITY OR TOWN: **Indianapolis** STATE: **Indiana** CODE: **46204**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
The Plat of the Woodland Park Addition to Irvington depicting lot 22 thereof.

DATE OF SURVEY: **January 4, 1872** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Marion County Recorder's Office, Plat Book 4, page 18

STREET AND NUMBER:
Room 721, City-County Building

CITY OR TOWN: **Indianapolis** STATE: **Indiana** CODE: **46204**

STATE: INDIANA
COUNTY: MARION
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

* The house is a stately well-preserved two-story brick residence of French-mansard design with a picturesque tower entrance and mansard roof. Erected on a rugged stone foundation, the house has fine woodwork, oak flooring, and ornate windows. The house has twelve rooms in all with a well drained basement. The second floor includes a private apartment and is occupied by a caretaker.

It has been restored to its original appearance both inside and out with only such alterations as necessary for use by the public such as heating, air-conditioning, rest rooms, cloakroom, and modern kitchen equipment on both floors.

*er of the French baroque stage of the Renaissance in architecture

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian: 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1873 -

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | <u>Center of cultural</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | <u>interest</u> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | <u>Preservation of</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | <u>community heritage</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Benton House has been the home of only two families since 1890. The house was built in 1873 by Nicholas Ohmer, and F. R. Kautz was the owner when Dr. and Mrs. Benton purchased the home in 1890. Dr. Benton sold the house to Mr. and Mrs. Willis K. Miller on August 7, 1907. Mr. Herschel Miller, son of W. K. Miller, sold the property to the Irvington Historic Landmarks Foundation, Inc. in June of 1966. The joint boards of the Irvington Union of Clubs and the Irvington Historical Society, sponsoring organizations, elected the first Board of Directors of the Irvington Historic Landmarks Foundation which is a self-perpetuating board. The Benton House has been restored as a community landmark, a museum of the Victorian period. It is used as headquarters for the two sponsoring groups and for meetings by cultural groups in the community.

The home is located in Irvington, which was a suburb of Indianapolis, founded in 1870. The area was known as a seat of culture, especially when Butler University was located in Irvington. Dr. and Mrs. Benton became residents of Irvington in 1887 and soon occupied the house at 312 South Downey Avenue. Dr. Benton was twice president of Butler University, and his home was one of the showplaces of Irvington. Famous people from all over the world were his guests for Dr. Benton was prominently identified with the early educational history of Indiana, Ohio and Nebraska.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Indianapolis News, "Benton House Reflects Old Irvington Charm," by Mary Walden, November 23, 1969, p. 4, Sec. 6.
Beloved City: Indianapolis, 1970, A publication of the Creative Writing Committee of the Indianapolis Public Schools, p. 23.
The Indianapolis Star, October 18, 1970, p. 4, Sec. 3. "Citation Awards"
 An American Heritage Guide, -Historic Houses of America, 1971, p.75.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES									
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE			LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0		"	0		"	39	45	51N	86	4	35 W
NE	0		"	0		"						
SE	0		"	0		"						
SW	0		"	0		"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: .66 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
None			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: _____

ORGANIZATION: _____ DATE: _____

STREET AND NUMBER: _____

CITY OR TOWN: _____ STATE: _____ CODE: _____

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Legal Description of the Benton House, 312 South Downey Avenue, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Beginning at the South East corner of lot 22 in Downey and Ohmers Woodland Park Addition to the Town of Irvington now a part of the City of Indianapolis thence in a northerly direction along the west line of Downey Avenue 102 feet thence West parallel to and 86 feet distant from the North line of said lot 209 5/10 feet to a point 50 feet East of the West Line of said lot 22, thence South parallel to and 50 feet distant from the West line of said lot 137.3 feet to the North line of Ohmer Avenue thence in an easterly direction along the North line of Ohmer Avenue 272 feet to the place of beginning.

Additional References

- The Indianapolis News , Monday, November 17, 1969, p. 15, "Parties That Were"
- The Indianapolis News, March 3, 1969, p. 15, "Irvingtonians View Fashions, Chandeliers,"
by Kathleen Van Nuys
- The Indianapolis News "Benton House Will Be Site of Union of Clubs Parties,"
by Marilyn Shapiro
- The Indianapolis Star , March 18, 1970, p. 10, "Station Spruced Up For Ball"
- The Indianapolis News , ~~March~~ ^{April}, 1970, "Station Ball Is Centennial Kick-Off" by Wayne Gutarie
- East Side Herald , April 16, 1970, "Last Call - Station Ball"
- The Indianapolis Star , April 5, 1970, "Elegance To be Recaptured," by Mary Walden
- The Indianapolis Star, Feb. 4, 1971, "Restoration Awards" (with Star Photo)
- The Indianapolis News, Jan. 2, 1974, Obituary of Dr. Allen R. Benton

Indiana History Bulletin

"The Irvington Benton House Project" by Howard C. Caldwell, March, 1966.